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July 29, 1994

TO: EXEC - Ambassador Albright

THRU: EXEC - Ambassador Gnehm

FROM: POL - Cameron R. Hume

SUBJECT: Remarks on Opening of Kigali Airport and Deployment of U.S. Forces to Rwanda

The following points, for use at tonight's Security Council consultations, were drawn from a press conference held today by Deputy Secretary Deutch and General John Sheehan on U.S. relief efforts in Rwanda. A transcript of the press conference is attached.

Talking Points

- o Because of the intense concern about the situation in Rwanda, I would like to pass along the gist of an announcement made this evening in Washington.
- o As soon as consultations with the Rwandan government have been completed, the U.S. plans to send up to 200 troops to open up the Kigali airport to support the UNHCR and humanitarian organizations in the provision of relief.
- o In addition, we will be providing the airport with communications gear, equipment for cargo handling, and fire and rescue systems: all things that would facilitate an intensive, 24-hour operation at the airport.
- o Kigali airport, which is better located and has twice the capacity of Goma airport to receive and distribute food, water and medical supplies. So, if successful, this humanitarian operation should greatly accelerate the flow of aid to the interior of Rwanda.
- o We hope that this effort will help give the thousands of Rwandan refugees the hope to return to their homes.
- o Secretary Perry will depart for Africa to review our humanitarian operations there. He will stop at Kigali.
- o If these efforts are successful, in a week or two we will consider expanding our effort to participate in the distribution of relief material throughout Rwanda.